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Disability Commission Minutes 02/16/05

**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2005**

Members Present: Lin Baker, Barbra Cutler, Joseph Giurleo, Susan James, Barbara Jones, Louis Krodel, Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hilaire

Members Absent: Tom Boudreau

Staff Present: Jack Jones

Others Present: Selectman Charlie Lyons, Paolo Marinelli

Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2005:

Barbara J. moved acceptance of the January 19, 2005 Meeting Minutes seconded by Joe. SO VOTED

Discussion of Access Issues with Selectman Charlie Lyons:

Barbara C. expressed the Commission's concern to Charlie about Town Contractors being fully paid for services not completed. Charlie said that the Permanent Town Building Committee is empowered by Town By-Laws as the Committee responsible for overseeing the construction and acceptance of all Town buildings, and that a Town building in violation of AAB Codes creates a policy concern to himself. Charlie said that he would express this concern to the Town Manager and the Chair of the Permanent Town Building Committee. Kevin said that the Town accepted ownership of the Peirce School because the architect said the building was completed in accordance with all code regulations. Kevin said that a project management group is overseeing construction of the Dallin School. Charlie said that when a municipality contracts with a project management team instead of having a clerk of the works overseeing a school construction project the State will compensate the municipality a additional 2% for construction costs.

Barbara C. said that the Commission would be applying for additional CDBG Funds to continue curb cut work along Massachusetts Avenue. Charlie said of the eighty-four million dollars that is available to Cities and Towns in Massachusetts in CDBG Funding seventy percent of these funds are used for the benefit of low-income households and people with disabilities. Kevin suggested that the Commission request Twenty-Five Thousand to add to the Twenty-Two Thousand remaining from FY' 2005. Barbara C. said that the Commission should request a level of funding equal to the Commissions allocation that was available during FY' 2005. Kevin said that CDBG Funding would be requested this year to finish improvements to four Arlington Playgrounds. Barbara C. expressed concern that funding for curb cut work would be jeopardized because of the \$70,000 funding requested for accessibility improvements to the Locke Playground.

Barbara C. told Charlie that the Commission is concerned about the use of bricks on Arlington Sidewalks. Charlie said that the Commission should send a policy letter to the Redevelopment Board and Permanent Town Building Committee with a copy to the Board of Selectman explaining how brick sidewalks are difficult to travel over if a person is elderly or has a disability. Barbara C. said she would draft a Policy Letter for review of the Commission.

Barbara C. expressed the Commissions concern regarding the Donald Marquis Trail not being plowed. Kevin said that there is a technical reason that the Trail is not plowed. Paolo said that trials used by pedestrians are plowed in some abutting communities. The reason involves drainage issues. Kevin said that if the Trail were plowed melting snow would freeze on the Trail and create a liability for the Town.

Paolo said that the Town should consider snowplow equipment that could be used to clear snow from the street corner curb cut ramps. Charlie Lyons said that snow removal equipment purchased for the benefit of disabled individuals would meet eligibility requirements of the CDBG Program.

Legislative Update:

Barbara C. said that the 27th Annual Legislative Reception would be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at the Grand Staircase Hall, 2nd Floor, State House between 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Old/New Business:

Louis said that the meeting that he and Jack attended with the Police Department involved a introduction about the Commission a discussion regarding the management of dumpsters, overgrowth of shrubbery, snow removal from sidewalks and handicapped parking issues.

Jack said that the requested corrections at the January Meeting to the Annual Report Submission have been made.

Kevin said that the park projects that have been started with CDBG funds would probably receive a significant amount of FY '06 CDBG funding. Paolo inquired about using CDBG funds for curb bump outs. Kevin said that if the Commission used CDBG funding for bump outs the Commission would probably have fewer funds available for regular curb cut work.

Susan inquired about Disability Commission Meeting Notice not being posted in the Arlington Advocate. Jack said that Meeting Notices would be sent to the Clerks Office for posting to the Advocate at least two weeks before any future meetings.

Susan expressed concerns about reductions in funding for Medicaid that would impact the most on the mentally disabled. Maureen said that parity is supposed to exist in regards to insurance. Paolo suggested that the Commission raise this concern at the March 16th Legislative Reception.

Paolo inquired about accessibility at the Fox Community Center. Jack stated that there is an accessible entrance on the Massachusetts Avenue side of the building, however the lower level is not accessible. Jack said that if a disabled person desires to attend a meeting scheduled for the lower level that meeting would need to be relocated to an accessible location.

Adjournment:

Kevin moved to adjourn at 6:05 P.M.